

Lahip, Jessica

From: Rebecca Melendez [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Planning CDP
Subject: KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE Meeting 19th 12pm
Business 3) Draft General Plan Comments Discussion

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Action Plan Committee Members,

I am Rebecca Melendez and I was scheduled to zoom with you but I am coughing too much today. I have a small cold.

Please, consider my views for your draft of the 2045 General Plan.

1) The bus system used to be \$2 a person and it seemed to not be so late and not break down so much. Please, look into how the bus system has been doing since it changed from charging to ride, to riding for free, because many locals and visitors use the bus and making it free, seems to have caused the buses to not be as well maintained as they were when they were able to charge a small fee of \$2 each way.

I hear Oahu buses charge and are very well maintained and on time.

Please, look into if the buses were breaking down as often when there was a fee, and if the buses were as late as they are now that it is free to ride.

Please, look and see if keeping the buses free is causing them not to be able to stay well maintained because they seem to break down all the time and are usually late.

2) My letter is my petition that 335 people are agreeing with <https://www.change.org/p/help-prioritize-big-island-development-to-keep-island-s-resources-safe-for-all>

We stand to keep The Big Island in a place where the Island's resources are safe for the entire population and visitors.

We ask that you look at all these articles about Big Island resources and learn that the island's resources are limited and are already being affected negatively.

Please, read these articles and learn through other sources as well, how all the development that has already been built, and the many years of new development that has already been approved for the future, will affect the island's resources.

We stand and ask that you stop before approving more and more developments and learn what is happening to the island's resources and what will happen to the island's resources after the years of development that is already scheduled for the future. Because a lot of development is having negative impacts on the island's resources as of today.

What will future development do to the island's resources if there are already resource issues happening today?

Please, learn how to take island resources seriously because you have approved many more years of development to come and today the island's resources are having issues. What will the future look like if you don't start taking island resources seriously?

What is happening to Big Island Resources

1) Hawaii Deals with Burgeoning Waste Management Problem

As landfills face closure and waste-to-energy projects stall, various counties in Hawaii are dealing with waste management issues. Waste360 Staff January 10, 2020

"Hawaii Island is in the enviable position of having a landfill with anywhere from 20 to 100 years of capacity left to take in trash. But the island still wrestles with significant issues like plastic products that are no longer being recycled." <https://www.waste360.com/landfill/hawaii-deals-with-burgeoning-waste-management-problem>

2) "Big Island Now readers seem to agree that there's likely no single solution for slowing down the timeline of the West Hawai'i Sanitary Landfill reaching capacity.

The West Hawai'i Sanitary Landfill, the only remaining landfill on the Big Island, is forecast to reach capacity within the next 20 to 25 years." <https://bigislandnow.com/2023/09/17/big-island-now-poll-no-27-results-more-than-one-solution-needed-to-help-extend-life-of-west-hawaii-landfill/>

3) Hawaii Island Has Decades of Landfill Space But Still Faces Challenges In Dealing With Its Waste Hawai'i Public Radio Published January 9, 2020 at 5:00 AM HST

"Hawaii Island is in the enviable position of having a landfill with anywhere from 20 to 100 years of capacity left to take in trash. But the island still wrestles with significant issues like plastic products that are no longer being recycled.

For the past four decades, trash from the east side of Hawaii Island has been dumped in a landfill outside of Hilo. But now trash from all parts of the island is being trucked to a facility north of Kona." <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2020-01-09/hawaii-island-has-decades-of-landfill-space-but-still-faces-challenges-in-dealing-with-its-waste>

4) "What happens to Hawaii Island's trash and recyclables? BY MICHELLE BRODER VANDYKE HAWAII ISLAND PUBLISHED 11:30 AM ET DEC. 17, 2022 By Michelle Broder Vandyke Hawaii Island PUBLISHED 11:30 AM ET Dec. 17, 2022 The future of the landfill

The West Hawaii Landfill will be full in about 20 years. Finding a location for the next landfill is a concern, according to the DEM officials. They said it will be challenging to find a location for a future landfill because of stringent regulations and costs related to planning, environmental regulations, design and construction that will take many years to complete. It will also require community support." <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/hi/hawaii/news/2022/12/15/what-happens-to-hawaii-island-s-trash-and-recyclables>

5) "The overwhelming plastic waste Hawaii visitors leave behind

By Natasha Bourlin Aug 24, 2023

Hawaii saw more than 9 million visitors last year. Those tourists' first stops are often big-box and convenience stores, where they buy bottled water, plastic sand toys, single-use bodyboards, noodles, floaties and inner tubes for their trips." <https://www.sfgate.com/hawaii/article/plastic-waste-hawaii-visitors-leave-behind-18286076.php>

6) "A county commission drafts ordinance aiming to ban recyclables at West Hawai'i landfill By Megan Moseley September 6, 2023 · 1:00 AM HST

* Updated September 6, 2023 · 2:02 PM

Hawai'i County's Environmental Management Commission is developing an ordinance that aims to prohibit the amount of recyclable materials ending up in the island's only working landfill." <https://bigislandnow.com/2023/09/06/new-draft-ordinance-aims-to-ban-recyclables-at-west-hawaii-landfill/>

7) "Hawai'i County issues mandatory 25% water restriction for North Kona August 7, 2023 · 5:21 PM HST

A mandatory 25% water restriction has been issued for various communities in North Kona due to the failure of the Honokōhau Deepwell over the weekend." <https://bigislandnow.com/2023/08/07/hawaii-county-issues-mandatory-25-water-restriction-for-north-kona/>

8) "Hawai'i Water Supply Closely Monitored As Severe Drought Continues by Big Island Video Newson Nov 6, 2023 at 3:28 pm STORY SUMMARY

HAWAII COUNTY - Officials say a special focus will be placed on the South Kohala Water System, which is more susceptible to drought conditions." <https://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2023/11/06/water-supply-closely-monitored-as-hawai%CA%BBi-under-severe-drought/>

9) "Big Island Concerns About Water Quality Prompt A Lawsuit Over A Kona Sewage Plant Kealakehe sewage plant discharges more than 1 million gallons of wastewater into a lava pit near the ocean. By Paula Dobbyn / February 6, 2024

Settlement talks are scheduled in an environmental lawsuit involving a county-operated Big Island sewage plant in Kona." <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/02/concerns-about-water-quality-prompt-a-lawsuit-over-a-kona-sewage-plant/>

10) "Researchers find sewage from an oceanfront Big Island community reaches nearshore waters Hawai'i Public Radio | By Russell Subiono, Sophia McCullough Published December 20, 2021 at 5:56 PM HST

There are nearly 50,000 cesspools on the Big Island, with tens of thousands posing a risk to water resources, according to the Hawai'i Department of Health." <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/the-conversation/2021-12-20/researchers-find-sewage-from-an-oceanfront-big-island-community-reaches-nearshore-waters>

11) Has this issue been fixed? It's going on 3 years since this article was written.

"Kona coast faces stark wastewater tradeoffs Current situation

There are approximately 88,000 cesspools across the state, releasing more than 200,000 cubic meters of wastewater per day to the

environment. <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2021/09/10/kona-stark-wastewater-tradeoffs/>

12) "BIG ISLAND NEWS HECO restores power after initiating emergency outages on Big Island by: Elizabeth 'Ufi Posted: Jan 30, 2024 / 09:43 AM HST Updated: Jan 30, 2024 / 04:15 PM HST

An unexpected loss of several large Hawaii Electric generators left some residents on Big Island without power for parts of the morning on Tuesday, Jan. 30." <https://www.khon2.com/big-island-news/heco-initiates-30-min-rolling-outages-after-loss-of-generators/>

13) Hawai'i State News Update: Hawaiian Electric initiates rolling outages throughout Big Island February 13, 2024 · 5:23 PM HST

* Updated February 14, 2024 · 4:21 PM

The emergency outages are being initiated in various areas around the entire island to prevent loss of power to an even greater number of customers. The timing and extent of the outages will depend on the amount of demand on the system and the availability of

generators." <https://bigislandnow.com/2024/02/13/hawaii-island-customers-asked-to-reduce-electricity-use/>

14) "LOCAL NEWS

HECO issues rolling power outages around Big Island by: Emily Cervantes Posted: Feb 13, 2024 / 05:11 PM HST Updated: Feb 13, 2024 / 09:12 PM HST Hawaiian Electric initiated rolling outages

for Big Island after several large generators became unavailable and reduced output Tuesday night."

<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/heco-releases-conservation-alert-for-big-island/>

15) "Here's how power outages can have repercussions for Hawai'i's water supply Hawai'i Public Radio | By Savannah Harriman-Pote
Published February 13, 2024 at 10:59 AM HST

Water departments on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island have advised customers to conserve water ahead of possible storm-related power outages this month.

But what does the power grid have to do with the water supply?

It is impossible to separate Hawai'i's power system from its water system, said Kawika Uyehara, deputy director of Hawai'i County's Department of Water

Supply." <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2024-02-13/residents-on-hawaii-island-and-oahu-are-asked-to-conserve-water-amid-power-outages>

These articles show that Big Island resources are currently being affected negatively from the development on island, there are years of new development that has already been approved, and even more development is still being approved before learning if the island's resources can handle more development.

We stand to say LEARN WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE ISLAND'S RESOURCES before approving more development because this is an island, it's not the mainland.

We stand and say that Big Island resources needs to be FULLY considered before any more new development is approved for the safety of ALL who live here and visit.

There are many, many developments that have been approved for years to come and we stand and say we need to learn how the island's resources will be affected when these developments are finished before you keep approving more and more developments!

We stand and say NO DEVELOPING ON BURIAL GROUND. The history of the island needs to be preserved and the burial grounds need to be respected at all costs.

We stand and say NO more approving of future developments because there are hundreds of acres that have been approved for future development and the Big Island needs to address these resource issues before more land is approved for development.

We stand and ask to make it mandatory for vacation rentals and ALL resorts and hotels to provide drinking water machines to their guests to help stop all the empty water bottle waste on the island.

We stand and ask to make it mandatory for vacation rentals and ALL resorts and hotels to provide shampoo, conditioner, body wash in bulk containers rather than continuously using different containers for every new guest, to help stop all the empty bottles waste in the limited landfill.

Can Hawaii Planning Department put in a stipulation in all development applications that to build on The Big Island they must sell a high percentage of their homes to locals at an affordable rate first before selling to newcomers because this is an island, and the island's resources need to be seriously considered?

A stipulation put in to be able to build could help the local homes shortage as well as slow the increase in population and help with the island's resources.

An example, of a stipulation could be, to build on the Big Island they must sell 50% of their homes to native Hawaiian locals who have lived on the island for 10 years or more, 25% to regular locals who have lived on the island for 10 years or more and all at an affordable rate and sell 25% to newcomers at whatever rate they want.

A Big Island building stipulation that would offer 75% of homes that developers build, sold to locals in order for the developer to be approved to build on the island would help the island's resources because it would slow the population growth to help keep the island's resources safe for all who live here.

The articles above prove that island resources are already have serious issue and this needs to be taken seriously, ASAP.

To have a building stipulation, this would help the locals who have lived here for years be able to purchase a home before big investors, as well as help, slow down homes from becoming vacation rentals instead of family homes, and will help decrease the fast increase in population until the Planning Department can know for sure that the island's resources can handle a serious increase in population.

We ask for a Population Environmental Impact Report to be done on what would be a safe population for the Big Island resource landfill, water, sewer, power... as shown in the articles above, resources are already being affected and it's 2024.

Also, there are mostly only 2 lanes throughout the entire Big Island and some places where cars cannot pull over if an ambulance needs to get by.

The traffic has seriously increased and if the island's population keeps increasing there will be hours and hours of constant serious traffic in the near future, how will ambulances get by in emergencies?

What if there is a tsunami and people need to get to higher ground? Will they be able to get to higher ground in time with such an increased in population causing a serious traffic?

The island's small road infrastructure isn't made for a high population and that needs to be taken seriously.

What is a safe population for the Big Island? A Population Environment Impact Report can tell us. We ask this to be done.

We ask for another hospital to be built, as well as a trauma center and dive chamber to be put on the island to accommodate all types of injuries because of all the years of new future development that you have already approved.

Alii Drive is only two lanes and right now there are three big developments in progress, and over 10 more acres of land on this street has just been approved for even more development on this street.

Did you research to see how this one road can handle more development before your approval?

Did you research and check on the island's resources before you approved this and many other developments all over the Big Island?

We stand to slow down development to learn how roads will handle all the new homes that Hawai'i has already approved for years to come before more development is approved because right now there is serious traffic issues all over Big Island?

We stand to say what are you doing about the growth in homeless on the island? We stand and ask that this be taken seriously.

What about parking?

All of the Big Island towns have parking issues, especially during high tourist seasons and especially Ironman.

With more subdivisions comes more cars and the island towns are already overcrowded with parking issues. How will parking Improve with more houses? Is the Hawaii Planning Department considering the parking issues?

We stand for you to find a way to improve the parking issues before approving more development.

There are over 50,000 cesspools on The Big Island. Have these all been upgraded to ensure they will not pollute the land and ocean? This needs to be addressed ASAP before more development is approved.

We stand that all cesspools be upgraded ASAP to ensure safety for the land and ocean around the island.

If you agree with this info, please sign this petition.

There are possibly thousands of new homes that have been approved for future development and are currently being built right now.

This petition states that we strongly OPPOSE approving any and all new development applications because the island's resources are currently having serious issues, as you can see from the articles above, and many more homes have already been approved for future years developments.

We oppose these applicates below, and all new development applications because it is known that the Big Island's resources can't handle more development as you can see the island's resource issues from the articles above.

Tax Map Key 7-8-004: 059 & 060 size of property 1.3 Acres

Tax Map Key: (3) 7-3-065:044 approx. 3.418 Acres

Tax Map Key 7-8-010:077 size of property 74 Acers Keauhou area

Tax Map Key 7-5-003:023 size of property 129 Acers Queen K Hwy area

Tax Map Key 7-7-008:121 size of property 11 Acers Alii Drive area

Tax Map Key 7-7-004:063 size of property 8 Acers Alii Drive area

Tax Map Key 8-1-007:013 size 1.74 Acres

Tax Map Key 8-1-008: 004 size 6.875 Acres

Tax Map Key 7-9-007: 055 size 2 Acers

Tax Map Key 7-5-017:040

Tax Map Key 7-5-019:049, 050,054 size 47.389 Acres

Tax Map Key (3) 8-1-036: 001 & 002 size 54 Acres

Tax Map Key 3-709-5-79 size 94 Acres

Tax Map Key (3) 7-5-020:066 9.9 sq. ft

Tax Map Key (3) 7-5-018:071 size 3 Acres

Tax Map Key 7-6-021:016 & 017 size 68 Acres

Tax Map Key 7-6-008: 012 size 10 Acres

Tax Map Key (3) 7-5-018: 095